

Data Sheet

USAID Mission:	Romania
Program Title:	Improved Local Democratic Governance
Pillar:	Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance
Strategic Objective:	186-0230
Status:	Continuing
Planned FY 2005 Obligation:	\$7,550,000 AEEB
Prior Year Unobligated:	\$1,590,000 AEEB
Proposed FY 2006 Obligation:	\$6,000,000 AEEB
Year of Initial Obligation:	2002
Estimated Year of Final Obligation:	2007

Summary: USAID's democracy program is improving local democratic governance, increasing accountability of local politicians, building a stronger civil society, and creating a more independent, transparent and efficient judiciary.

Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

FY 2005 Program: Support Democratic Local Government and Decentralization (\$2,700,000 AEEB, \$533,000 AEEB carryover, \$807,000 AEEB prior year recoveries). USAID will provide technical assistance to six major municipalities in order to streamline the relationships between local governments and citizens, enhance transparency, reduce bureaucracy, and make city management more effective. The program will continue to provide technical and financial support to local government associations and about 10 NGOs to continue promoting local governance reforms, especially those reforms with nationwide impact. Partners: Development Alternatives Incorporated; ARD (primes), Academy for Educational Development and many local NGOs and professional associations (subs).

Strengthen Civil Society (\$2,750,000 AEEB, \$132,000 AEEB carryover). USAID will assist 15 NGOs advocate for reform and monitor elected officials. USAID will identify NGOs that are able to conduct election-related activities by providing them with grants, guidance on organizing community dialogues, and assistance for monitoring elections and mobilizing the electorate to get out and make an informed vote. Post election assistance will support the dialogue between NGOs and local party branches on community issues. The program will help build the capacity of NGOs to be civic watchdogs in their communities, especially through monitoring the campaign pledges of candidates, influencing local government and educating citizens on issues of interest to their communities. Assistance will also support long-term advocacy campaigns to reform local governance. USAID will start a new project to help civic groups become sustainable after SEED assistance ends. Partners: National Democratic Institute for International Affairs, International Republican Institute (primes).

Support Democratic Political Parties (\$1,500,000 AEEB, \$118,000 AEEB carryover). Political party assistance will focus on the pre- and post-election period of parliamentary and presidential elections. USAID will assist local party branches to communicate with citizens and civil society, and advocate in Bucharest for national policy reforms. Activities will build the skills of political candidates to participate in public, issue-based discussions with local constituents. USAID will also help newly elected politicians to reach out to citizens in their work. Technical assistance will help political parties reach out to young voters and help the parties develop messages for them. With the conclusion of the 2004 elections, technical advisors will help parties stay connected to their constituencies, communicate and work with civic groups, and uphold their campaign promises. USAID will also fund an assessment of the electoral code and recommend electoral reforms. Partners: National Democratic Institute for International Affairs, International Republican Institute (primes).

Improve Justice Sector and Legal Reform (\$600,000 AEEB). USAID will train 75 judges and 250

clerks on judicial ethics. The project will complete USAID's direct involvement in the ethics training and hand over the course curricula, modules, and reference materials to the National Institute of Magistrates and to the Training Center for Clerks, for use in their professional development programs. The program will continue to work with the Superior Council of Magistrates on the reform of judicial legislation, and with the GOR and NGOs to improve legislation on women's rights and ensure its implementation. Partner: American Bar Association/Central European and Eurasian Law Initiative (prime).

FY 2006 Program: Support Democratic Local Government and Decentralization (\$1,500,000 AEED). USAID will continue the program to improve the legislation concerning public administration and create a critical mass of local governments and related organizations engaged in "best practices" for municipal services. The program will provide technical assistance to municipalities, followed by the replication of successful models through the local government associations. USAID plans to support the creation of citizen advisory boards in the same municipalities, enabling effective participation of constituents in decisions. Contractors/grantees: Same as in FY 2005 plus TBD.

Strengthen Civil Society (\$2,500,000 AEED). USAID will continue technical assistance and training to Romanian NGOs and help them to become more sustainable and less dependent on donor funding. NGOs will be trained in strategic planning, fund-raising, outreach, advocacy, and building domestic support for their initiatives. USAID will help NGOs to improve legislation concerning civil society and to advocate for legislative reforms that will affect key democratic processes or major local governance reforms. Grantees: Same as FY 2005 plus TBD.

Support Democratic Political Parties (\$1,500,000 AEED). USAID will continue to work with local branches of national parties to make them more responsive to their local constituencies. The program will assist with the implementation of reforms of the electoral code and encourage parties to support changes to the closed party list system in local and national elections. USAID's FY 2005 partners will continue to provide training and monitor the performance of elected officials.

Improve Justice Sector and Legal Reform (\$500,000 AEED). USAID will continue to work with the Supreme Council of Magistrates on implementation of judicial reforms, and partner with the U.S. Department of Justice to provide training for NGOs, prosecutors, judges, and local police about the role and responsibilities of multidisciplinary teams in domestic violence cases, and developing public-private partnerships to better handle domestic violence cases. Same grantees as FY 2005.

Performance and Results: U.S.-assisted NGOs successfully lobbied for local government reforms that address citizen concerns. These reforms included new legislation regarding social services provided by local authorities and legislation on decentralization. USAID helped design the strategy for public administration reform which the GOR approved in May 2004. Through models created by U.S.-Romanian partnerships, NGOs became more active in promoting civic activism, philanthropy, and volunteerism, as well as the inclusion of vulnerable groups, especially Roma. In support of the June 2004 local elections, the program helped increase the dialogue between civic groups and political parties. In specific counties USAID trained campaign managers to identify the concerns of key groups of voters and to inform the voters about the candidates' messages and party policies. The Rule of Law program supported the new legislation for the professional standing and activities of judges and prosecutors. A judicial legislative reform package was adopted in June 2004, and a code of ethics for court staff was drafted.

By the end of USAID's democratic governance assistance in Romania, improved local public services will be supported by increased local revenues and community involvement, and effective public-private partnerships. NGOs will present community needs more effectively to local administrations and will play an active role in reducing corruption, by monitoring local

governments' and elected officials' performance. Local party branches will be financially transparent and more responsive to citizens' needs. The judiciary will be more independent and transparent, due to a stronger Superior Council of Magistrates and increased ethical awareness and behavior by judges and court clerks. The courts will have a national system of random case assignment and computerized records that will make the courts more transparent and efficient and less corrupt.

US Financing in Thousands of Dollars

Romania

186-0230 Improved Local Democratic Governance	AEEB
Through September 30, 2003	
Obligations	33,851
Expenditures	24,035
Unliquidated	9,816
Fiscal Year 2004	
Obligations	6,818
Expenditures	9,199
Through September 30, 2004	
Obligations	40,669
Expenditures	33,234
Unliquidated	7,435
Prior Year Unobligated Funds	
Obligations	1,590
Planned Fiscal Year 2005 NOA	
Obligations	7,550
Total Planned Fiscal Year 2005	
Obligations	9,140
Proposed Fiscal Year 2006 NOA	
Obligations	6,000
Future Obligations	0
Est. Total Cost	55,809

